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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/550,278	04/14/2000	Kazuyuki Kurita	0879-0261P	9589

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EXAMINER

JERABEK, KELLY L

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2612

DATE MAILED: 10/06/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/550,278

Applicant(s)

KURITA, KAZUYUKI

Examiner

Kelly L. Jerabek

Art Unit

2612

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 4/14/2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claim 1 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Cho, US 5,523,783.

Claim 1 recites “ A remote control pan head system, comprising:

an operation part which outputs a control signal to a remote control pan head in which a camera is mounted, at least one of the remote control pan head and the camera being controlled with the control signal; and

a data converter which converts a communication data outputted from the operation part including the control signal into a data format that conforms with a data format for the remote control pan head, and transmits the converted communication data to the remote control pan head” reads on Cho (col. 4, lines 29-64; fig. 3).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 2 and 3 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cho as applied to claim 1 above and further in view of Cortjens et al. US 5,515,099.

Cho fails to teach
Re claim 2, "...wherein the data converter comprises a recognition device which automatically recognizes a type of data format of the communication data outputted from the operation part", as claimed. However the above technical features as claimed are well known and used in the art as evidenced in Cortjens (col.6, lines 7-51).

Therefore, taking the combined teaching of Cho and Cortjens as a whole, it would have been obvious to modify Cho to include a data recognition device as taught in Cortjens. Doing so would provide a method for automatically recognizing a type of data format and converting the data format into a format appropriate for the operation of the specified mechanism (eg. Pan/tilt mechanism).

Re claim 3, Cho fails to teach "...wherein the data converter comprises a switching device which is operated by a user to designate a type of data format of the communication data outputted from the operation part", as claimed. The mentioned switching device allows a user to designate a type of data format to be used. However, user operated switching devices are well known and used in the art as evidenced in Cortjens (col.6, lines 60-65; col. 7, lines 43-52).

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Therefore, taking the combined teaching of Cho and Cortjens as a whole, it would have been obvious to modify Cho to include a user operated switching device as taught in Cortjens. Doing so would provide a method for a user to manually designate the type of data format appropriate for the operation of the specified mechanism (eg. Pan/tilt mechanism).

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Cortjens et al. (US Patent #: 5,583,565) discloses a method for automatically adjusting the pan and tilt of a video conferencing system camera. The information disclosed in this document regarding the remote manipulation the pan and tilt of a camera is pertinent material.

Ikeda (US Patent #: 5,745,223) discloses an image pick-up device connectable to a pan head. The information disclosed in this document regarding the connection of various pan heads to a camera is pertinent material.

Contacts

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Kelly Jerabek whose telephone number is (703) 305-8659. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday (8:00 AM - 5:00 PM).

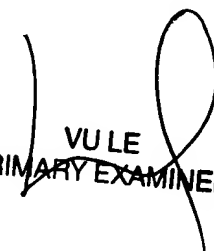
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wendy Garber can be reached at (703)-305-4929.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-4700.

The fax number for submitting all Official communications is (703) 872-9306.

The fax number for submitting informal communications such as drafts, proposed amendments, etc., may be faxed directly to the Examiner at (703) 746-3059.

KLJ


VULE
PRIMARY EXAMINER